

POS

POSSESSIVE. *adj.* [*possessivus*, Lat.] Having possession.

POSSESSORY. *adj.* [*possessivus*, Fr. from *posse*, Lat.] Having possession. This he detains from the ivy much against his will; for he should be the true possessor lord thereof. *Howel.*

POSSESSOR. *n. f.* [*possessor*, Lat. *posse*, Fr.] Owner; master; proprietor.

Thou profoundest hell

Receive thy new possessor. *Milton.*

A considerable difference lies between the honour of men for natural and acquired excellencies and divine graces, that those having more of human nature in them, the honour doth more directly redound to the possessor of them. *Stillington.*

'Twas the interest of those, who thirsted after the possessions of the clergy, to represent the possessors in as vile colours as they could. *Atterbury's Sermons.*

POSSET. *n. f.* [*posca*, Lat.] Milk curdled with wine or any acid.

We'll have a posset at the latter end of a seacoal fire. *Shak.*

In came the bridemaids with the posset, *Suckling.*

The bridegroom eat in spite. *Wideman's Surgery.*

I allowed him medicated broths, posset ale and pearl

julep. *Dryden.*

A sparing diet did her health assure;

Or sick, a pepper posset was her cure. *Floyer on the Humours.*

The cure of the stone consists in vomiting with posset drink,

in which althea roots are boiled. *Arbutnot.*

Increase the milk when it is diminished by the too great use

of flesh meats, by gruels and posset drink. *Arbutnot.*

To POSSER. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To turn; to curdle:

as milk with acids. Not used.

Swift as quicksilver it courses through

The nat'ral gates and allies of the body;

And, with a sudden vigour, it doth posset

And curd, like eager droppings into milk,

The thin and wholesome blood. *Shaksp. Hamlet.*

POSSIBILITY. *n. f.* [*possibilitas*, Fr.] The power of being in

any manner; the state of being possible.

There is no let, but that as often as those books are read,

and need to require, the file of their differences may ex-

pressly be mentioned to bar even all possibility of error. *Hooker.*

Brother, speak with possibilities.

And do not break into these woeful extremes. *Shaksp.*

Consider him antecedently to his creation, while he yet

lay in the barren womb of nothing, and only in the number

of possibilities; and consequently could have nothing to re-

commend him to Christ's affection. *South's Sermons.*

A bare possibility, that a thing may be or not be, is no just

cause of doubting whether a thing be or not. *Tillotson.*

According to the multifariousness of this imitability, to are

the possibilities of being. *Norris.*

Example not only teaches us our duty, but convinces us of

the possibility of our imitation. *Rogers's Sermons.*

POSSIBLE. *adj.* [*possibilis*, Fr. *possibilis*, Lat.] Having the

power to be or to be done; not contrary to the nature of

things.

Admit all these impossibilities and great absurdities to be

possible and convenient. *Whiggist.*

With men this is impossible, but with God all things are

possible. *Mat. xix. 26.*

All things are possible to him that believeth. *Mar. ix. 23.*

Firm we submit, but possible to ferve. *Milton.*

It will scarce seem possible, that God should engrave prin-

ciples in men's minds in words of uncertain signification. *Locke.*

Set a pleasure tempting, and the hand of the Almighty vi-

sibly prepared to take vengeance, and tell whether it be possible

for people wantonly to offend against the law. *Locke.*

POSSIBLY. *adv.* [from possible.]

1. By any power really existing.

Within the compass of which laws, we do not only com-

prehend whatsoever may be easily known to belong to the

duty of all men, but even whatsoever may possibly be known

to be of that quality. *Hooker, b. i. f. 8.*

Can we possibly his love desert? *Milton.*

2. Perhaps; without absurdity.

Possibly he might be found in the hands of the earl of Essex,

but he would be dead first. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

Arbitrary power tends to make a man a bad sovereign, who

might possibly have been a good one, had he been invested

with an authority circumscrib'd by laws. *Addison.*

POST. *n. f.* [*postus*, Fr. *postus*, Lat.]

1. A hasty messenger; a courier who comes and goes at stated

times; commonly a letter carrier.

In certain places there be always fresh posts, to carry that

farther which is brought unto them by the other. *Abbot.*

Three I'll rake up, the post unanctified

Of murtherous lechers. *Shaksp. King Lear.*

I fear my Julia would not deign my lines,

Receiving them by such a worthless post. *Shaksp.*

A cripple in the way out-travels a footman, or a post out

of the way. *Bey. Johnson's Discov.*

I send you the fair copy of the poem on Juliet, which I

should not care to hazard by the common post. *Pope.*

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2. Quick course or manner of travelling. This is the sense in

which it is taken; but the expression seems elliptical to ride

post, is to ride as a post, or to ride in the manner of a post;

courir en poste; whence Shakespeare, to ride in post.

I brought my master news of Juliet's death,

And then in post he came from Mantua. *Shaksp. Romeo and Juliet.*

To this same monument. *Milton.*

Sent from Media post to Egypt. *Milton.*

He who rides post through an unknown country, cannot

distinguish the situation of places. *Dryden.*

3. [Poste, Fr. from *positus*, Lat.] Situation; seat.

The waters rise every where upon the surface of the

earth; which new post, when they had once seized on, they

would never quit. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

4. Military station.

See before the gate what stalking ghost

Commands the guard, what sentries keep the post. *Dryd.*

As I watch'd the gates,

Lodg'd on my post, a herald is arriv'd

From Cæsar's camp. *Addison's Cato.*

Whatever spirit careles of his charge

His post neglects, or leaves the fair at large,

Shall feel sharp vengeance. *Pope.*

Each of the Grecian captains he represents conquering a

single Trojan, while Diomed encounters two at once; and

when they are engaged, each in his distinct post, he only is

drawn fighting in every quarter. *Pope.*

5. Place; employment; office.

Every man has his post assigned to him, and in that station

he is well, if he can but think himself so. *L'Estrange.*

False men are not to be taken into confidence, nor fearful

men into a post that requires resolution. *L'Estrange.*

Without letters a man can never be qualified for any con-

siderable post in the camp; for courage and corporal force, un-

less joined with conduct, the usual effects of contemplation,

is no more fit to command than a tempest. *Collier.*

While you, my lord, the rural shades admire,

And from Britannia's publick posts retire,

Me into foreign realms my fate conveys. *Addison.*

Certain laws, by suff'ers thought unjust,

Deny'd all posts of profit or of trust. *Pope.*

Many thousands there are, who determine the justice or

madness of national administrations, whom neither God nor

men ever qualified for such a post of judgment. *Watts.*

6. [Postis, Lat.] A piece of timber set erect.

The blood they shall strike on the two side posts and upper

post of the house. *Ex. xii. 7.*

Fir-trees, cyresses and cedars being, by a kind of natural

rigour, inflexible downwards, are thereby fitted for posts or

pillars. *Watson's Architecture.*

Post is equivocal; it is a piece of timber, or a swift mes-

senger. *Watts's Logic.*

To POST. *v. n.* [*poster*, Fr. from the noun.] To travel with

speed.

I posted day and night to meet you. *Shaksp.*

Will you presently take horse with him,

And with all speed post with him towards the North? *Shak.*

Post speedily to my lord, your husband,

Shew him this letter. *Shaksp. King Lear.*

Most wicked speed, to post

With such dexterity to incestuous sheets. *Shaksp.*

Then this, then that man's aid, they crave, implore;

Post here for help, seek there their followers. *Daniel.*

The Turkish messenger presently took horse, which was

there in readiness for him, and posted towards Constantinople

with as much speed as he could. *Kneller.*

Themistocles made Xerxes post apace out of Greece, by

giving out that the Grecians had a purpose to break his bridge

of ships athwart the Hellespont. *Bacon's Essays.*

Wer't thou of the golden-winged host,

Who having clad thyself in human weed,

To earth from thy prefixed seat didst post. *Milton.*

Thousands at his bidding speed,

And post o'er land and ocean without rest. *Milton.*

With songs and dance we celebrate the day;

At other times we reign by night alone, *Dryden.*

And posting through the skies pursue the moon.

No wonder that pastoral are fallen into disesteem; I see

the reader already uneasy at this part of Virgil, counting the

pages, and posting to the Æneis. *Walsh.*

This only object of my real care,

In some few posting fatal hours is hurl'd

From wealth, from pow'r, from love and from the world. *Prior.*

To POST. *v. a.*

1. To fix opprobriously on posts.

Many gentlemen, for their integrity in their votes, were,

by posting their names, exposed to the popular calumny and

fury. *King Charles.*

On pain of being posted to your sorrow,

Fail not, at four, to meet me. *Graville.*

2. To place;

POS

2. [Poster, Fr.] To place; to station; to fix.

The conscious priest, who was suborn'd before,

Stood ready posted at the postern door. *Dryden.*

He that proceeds upon other principles in his enquiry into

any sciences, puts himself on that side, and posts himself in a

party, which he will not quit till he be beaten out. *Locke.*

When a man is posted in the station of a minister, he is

sure, beside the natural fatigue of it, to incur the envy of

some, and the displeasure of others. *Addison's Freeholder.*

3. To register methodically; to transcribe from one book into

another. A term common among merchants.

You have not posted your books these ten years; how

should a man of business keep his affairs even at this rate?

Arbutnot.

4. To delay. Obsolete.

I have not stopp'd mine ears to their demands,

Nor posted off their suits with flow delays;

Then why should they love Edward more than me. *Shaksp.*

POSTAGE. *n. f.* [from *post*.] Money paid for conveyance of

a letter.

Fifty pounds for the postage of a letter! to send by the

church, is the dearest road in Christendom. *Dryden.*

POSTBOY. *n. f.* [*post* and *boy*.] Courier; boy that rides post.

This genus came thither in the shape of a postboy,

and cried out, that Mons was relieved. *Tatler.*

To POSTDATE. *v. a.* [*post*, after, Lat. and *date*.] To date

later than the real time.

POSTDILUVIAN. *adj.* [*post* and *diluvium*, Lat.] Posterior to

the flood.

Take a view of the postdiluvian state of this our globe,

how it hath stood for this last four thousand years. *Woodv.*

POSTDILUVIAN. *n. f.* [*post* and *diluvium*, Lat.] One that

lived since the flood.

The antediluvians lived a thousand years; and as for the

age of the postdiluvians for some centuries, the annals of

Phœnicia, Egypt and China agree with the tenor of the fa-

ceded story. *Grew's Cosmol. b. iv.*

POSTER. *n. f.* [from *post*.] A courier; one that travels hastily.

Weid filters hand in hand,

Posters of the sea and land, *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

Thus do go about.

POSTERIOR. *adj.* [*posterior*, Lat. *posterior*, Fr.]

1. Happening after; placed after; following.

Where the anterior body giveth way, as fast as the posterior

cometh on, it maketh no noise, be the motion never so

great. *Bacon.*

No care was taken to have this matter remedied by the ex-

planatory articles, posterior to the report. *Addison.*

Helioid was posterior to Homer. *Brown.*

This orderly disposition of things includes the ideas of

prior, posterior and simultaneous. *Watts's Logic.*

2. Backward.

And now had fame's posterior trumpet blown,

And all the nations summon'd. *Dunciad, b. iv.*

POSTERIOR. *n. f.* [*posterior*, Lat.] The hinder parts.

To raise one hundred and ten thousand pounds, is as vain

as that of Rabelais, to squeeze out wind from the posteriors of

a dead ass. *Swift.*

POSTERIORITY. *n. f.* [*posteriorité*, Fr. from *posterior*.] The

state of being after; opposite to priority.

Although the condition of sex and posteriority of creation

might extenuate the error of a woman, yet it was unexcusable

in the man. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

There must be a posteriority in time of every compounded

body, to these more simple bodies out of which it is con-